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disclaimer of being a professional thinker can hardly be accepted, since the work bears the stamp of considerable philosophical research, especially from the scientific and mathematical side. He is convinced that there is philosophically the same necessity of our abolishing what he calls the cosmocentric superstition as there was formerly of our abolishing the geocentric and anthropocentric doctrines. There are, he asserts, an infinite number of cosmic worlds latent in the primeval chaos, each of which appears to its inhabitants as the only and exclusively real world, and so allures them into attributing its peculiar and distinctive idiosyncrasies to the transcendental world-nucleus itself. But this transcendental world-nucleus is withdrawn from all bonds of constraint, be they ever so light, and always retains its liberty of appearing as a cosmos in an infinite number of ways. A certain complexus of syntheses, S_{ab} , characterises *our* empirical world; if we change but one of the component syntheses, the entire complexus will be changed and a new consciousness by the side of our own produced, which by automatic selection (*Auslese*) will sift its cosmos out of the chaos as we have sifted ours. From this point of view, it is impossible to attribute to the system of limitations and syntheses which define *our* reality any ulterior objective precedence above other systems, apart from its simple relation to us. We have here, in fact, a species of epistemological fatalism, which collapses utterly in face of the accomplished fact. Reality is always reality *determined in some particular way*. Existence is invariably essence. Of infinitely many possible cases, some special case must find its realisation; but the question which one shall find it, every consciousness must answer for itself. If it were not this it would be some other, and then our consciousness would be other. And so ends the tale. μ.

THE STUDY OF LAPSES. Monograph Supplement to *The Psychological Review*.

By H. Heath Bawden, A. M. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1900.

Pages, 122. Price, 75 cents.

In general interest the present pamphlet easily surpasses the other monographs recently issued as supplements to the *Psychological Review*. It treats of "those unaccountable lapses of thought and expression" which ordinarily attract little attention and even when unusual elicit only a laugh or a passing smile. But occasionally, says Mr. Bawden, they are of such extraordinary character as to excite comment, and evoke inquiry as to their causes and probable significance in relation to mental life in general. For example, Professor James mentions the case of a man who said that he was "going to the coal to buy the wharf"; and the writer cites the instance of a friend who said he was going out for a walk in order to "get a bresh of freath air." Another instance related to the reviewer is that of a lady who upon entering a church in which she was a stranger asked the usher; "Does any one occupew this py?"

Innumerable other instances of this species of lapse might be cited but the foregoing are sufficient for our purpose. Inadvertences in expression, aberrations

in speech, lapses of thought, confusions of ideas, hitches and slips generally in speaking or writing,—such in their endless and bewildering variety are the materials which constitute the subject of Mr. Bawden's researches, and which are treated as guides to our understanding of mental processes. Their conditions are studied, and the principles of their classification formulated. Experiment has been called to the assistance of accident, and lapses have been artificially and purposely produced for formal examination. The longer section of the work is naturally devoted to "lapses as a study in association." The main result of this study is the fresh illustration which it affords of the so-called laws of similarity and contiguity, which the author is able to state in the form of the single law, "that contiguous similars tend to coalesce." In fact, the results of Mr. Bawden's researches are nearly all corroborative of existing principles rather than discoveries of new laws. He finds, for example, that among the current theories of the ludicrous the deformity and immorality theories find distinct support in the phenomena of lapses; and he further notes that "the examination and comparison of lapses and sense-illusions, have brought out with great clearness the arbitrary nature of the ordinary distinction between the 'sensory' and 'motor' aspects of the organic circuit." But perhaps the most important and striking result which he reached is, to use his own words, the fact of "the functional rather than *merely* analytic interpretation which the phenomena of lapses require." "It is at present impossible," he says, "to carry this functional treatment into the details of specific cases with any degree of certainty, because the method itself, at least when applied in psychology, is still undeveloped. But wherever the functional method can be applied, even in a general way, it always illumines the content analysis. Another such corroborative result is the striking confirmation which the analysis of lapses furnishes, of the bipartite analysis of 'conscious elements.'"

μ.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL INDEX, No. 6. A Bibliography of the Literature of Psychology and Cognate Subjects for 1899. Compiled by *Howard C. Warren*, Princeton University, with the co-operation of *N. Vaschide*, Paris, *B. Borchardt*, Berlin, *Robert S. Woodworth*, New York, and *J. Larguier des Bancelis*, Lausanne. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1900. Pages, 174. Price, 75 cents.

This valuable compilation includes all the original publications which have appeared in all languages, in the departments of psychology and cognate subjects, for the year 1899, together with translations and new editions in English, French, and German. The number of titles listed runs up to 2584, which includes several works which were received too late for insertion in No. 5 of the *Psychological Index*. There are eight main headings, as follows: I. General, including text-books, systematic treatises, psychological construction and criticism, methods, scope and relations of psychology, historical and biographical, collections, proceedings, descriptions, and bibliographies; II. Genetic, Comparative, and Individual Psychol-